District	Year wise number biogas plants set up		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Akola		1	2
III	—	1	2
		1	1
			2
Osmanabad	—	4	2
Solapur	4	4	2
Parbhani			1
Dhule	—	3	7
Nanded	4	—	2

Non-Supply of Gas to HFC and Assam Petroleum

2456. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of natural gas produced during the last three years in the country;

(b) the quantum of gas flared in Assam oilfields during the same period;

(c) whether the Fertilizer Plant of HFC and Assam Petrochem Unit at Namrup are suffering due to non-supply of gas, despite flaring of the gas; and

(d) whether gas is being preserved for use by private investors while starving the State-run units: if not, the steps taken to augment the supply of gas to Namrup plants of HFC and Assam Petrochem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SH. T. R. BAALU): (a) the quantum of natural gas produced during the last three years in the country was 50.23, 53.33 and 61.85 MMSCMD respectively.

(b) The quantum of gas flared in Assam during the same period was 1.82, 1.53 and 1.01 MMSCMD.

(c) Gas is being supplied to Assam Petrochemicals, Namrup according to their requirement. HFC, Namrup is currently drawing upto 0.36 MMSCMD against 0.48 MMSCMD available from ONCC and 0.80 MMSCMD against 1.1 MMSCMD available from OIL.

(d) No, Sir. The supply to HFC, Namrup has been augmented by setting up compressors to put low presure gas into the grid.

Wastage of fruits and Vegetables for lack of processing-facilities

2457. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has reported that India does not have adequate facilities to process excess fruits and vegetables and as much as 22 percent of the produce is lost every year due to over-ripenning and wastage;

(b) whether the installed capacity of processing units is mere 2.5 per cent and the capacity utilisation of must of these plants has been below 50 per cent; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to increase their installed capacity to achieve a respectable level of utilisation of fruits and vegetables into packed products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) While the report of Technology Information and Forecasting Assessment Council has not been received by this Ministry and survey has been conducted to assess the perishing and non-utilisation of fruits and vegetables, it is estimated that quality deterioration of loss in value that takes place is about 25 to 30% in some fruits and vegetables due to inadequacy of infrastructure and perishability of the produce.

(b) It is estimated that the installed capacity of fruits and vegetable processing industry on 1.1.96 was 17.6 lakh tonnes. The production during the year 1995 is estimated at 8.5 lakh tonnes.

(c) With a view to encourage development of Furit & Vegetable Processing Industries, government has taken several steps which *inter-alia* includes de-licencing of all fruit and vegetable products industries, providing fiscal reliefs for the products, capital goods and packaging materials and encouraging domestic and foreign investment in fruits and vegetable processing industries. Ministry also operates various plan schemes under which assistance is extended for setting up and upgrading of fruit and vegetable processing industries, setting up of infrastructure facilities, research and development, setting up of training facilities for small scale entrepreneurs, conducting studies, holding seminars and generally extending assistance through the State nodal agencies.

.Kuchcha Roads in Pauri Garhwal

2458. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism is adversely suffering in District Pauri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh due to Kuchcha Road Factor;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken to macadime all motor roads within five years from the years of their commissioning?

fHE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PROSAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Construction and maintenance of State roads at present is the responsibility of State Governments. This Ministry has, therefore, no information to furnish in this regard.

Power Plant Contract of A.P. Government with Subitomo Corporation of Japan

2459. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Gas Power Corporation has signed a contract with Sukitomo Corporation of Japan for setting up of 172 MW dual fuel based power plant, at an estimated cost of Rs. 480 crore, in west Godavari district;

(b) if so, what are the features of the agreement reached with Japan;

(c) by when the project is likely to start; and

(d) to what extent the power would be generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Requirement and Production of LPG

2460. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding total requirement, in terms of tonnage, of LPG as against the production during 1996-97, as compared to 1995-96;

(b) the details of Government's scheme to increase the production of LPG by expanding the capacities of existing refineries, indicating refinery-wise production of LPG during 1996-97, as compared to 1995-96;

(c) the proposals for procurement of LPG cylinders during 1996-97 as per the requirement, as against procurement made during 1995-96; and

(d) the number of units in each State, particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa,